

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problems Mailbox.**

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 606 749 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
12.03.1997 Bulletin 1997/11

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **C08L 75/04**, C08G 18/10,
C08G 18/28, C08G 18/48,
C09D 7/00
// (C08L75/04, 75:04)

(21) Application number: **93310262.6**

(22) Date of filing: **17.12.1993**

(54) **Polyurethane mixture**

Polyurethan-Mischung

Mélange de polyuréthanes

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI LU NL PT
SE**

(30) Priority: **14.01.1993 US 4378**

(43) Date of publication of application:
20.07.1994 Bulletin 1994/29

(73) Proprietor: **ROHM AND HAAS COMPANY**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-2399 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **Eisenhart, Eric Karl**
Doylestown, Pennsylvania 18901 (US)

- **Randow, Rodney Lamar**
Jeffersonville, Pennsylvania 19403 (US)
- **Howard, Paul Richard**
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145 (US)
- **Aviles, Rafael Gonzales**
Harleysville, Pennsylvania 19438 (US)

(74) Representative: **Angell, David Whilton et al**
ROHM AND HAAS
European Operations Patent Department
Lennig House
2 Mason's Avenue
Croydon CR9 3NB (GB)

(56) References cited:
US-A- 4 079 028

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

EP 0 606 749 B1

Description

This invention relates to a polyurethane mixture. In particular, this invention is related to a polyurethane mixture useful for thickening aqueous compositions.

Thickeners are useful for decorative and protective coatings, paper coatings, cosmetics and personal care items, detergents, pharmaceutical, adhesives and sealants, agricultural formulations, petroleum drilling fluids, and the like.

Thickeners have several roles in aqueous systems. They increase viscosity and maintain viscosity at required levels under specified processing conditions and end use situations. In latex decorative coatings, for example, the thickener may provide improved stability, pigment suspension, and application properties. In cosmetics and personal care items, the thickener improves body, smoothness and silkiness, making the product more aesthetically pleasing. In petroleum drilling fluids, the thickener improves the suspension of the cuttings, increasing the efficiency with which they can be removed.

Many thickeners, both natural and synthetic, are known. Natural thickeners, for example, include casein, alginates, gum tragacanth, and modified cellulose, including methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, and carbomethoxy cellulose. These natural products vary in their thickening efficiency, and generally provide poor flow and leveling properties. They are also subject to microbial attack which requires the additional presence of antimicrobial agents. Synthetic thickeners include various acrylic polymers and maleic anhydride copolymers. Some of these are found to be pH dependent, others are hydrolytically unstable, and others are sensitive to various components normally found in aqueous coatings.

One type of synthetic thickener is a polyurethane. U.S. Pat. No. 4,079,028 discloses polyurethane thickeners having at least three hydrophobic groups, such as hydrophobic isocyanate groups, interconnected by hydrophilic polyether groups. These polyurethanes have terminal hydrophobic groups.

Aqueous coating compositions thickened with polyurethane thickeners have good flow and leveling. "Leveling" as used herein, refers to the degree to which a coating flows out after application so as to obliterate any surface irregularities such as for example, brush marks, "orange peel", peaks, or craters, which have been produced by the mechanical process of applying a coating. Thus, aqueous coatings thickened with polyurethane thickeners have a desirable, smooth appearance when dried.

Despite these advantages, aqueous coatings thickened with polyurethane thickeners require improvement in their resistance to sagging. "Sagging", is the downward movement of a coating on a vertical surface between the time of application and setting, resulting in an uneven coating having a thick bottom edge. The resulting sag is usually restricted to a local area of a vertical surface and may have the characteristic appearance of a draped curtain. Sagging is aesthetically undesirable. In addition, coatings which resist the tendency to sag will not easily drip off a paint brush or a paint roller and will not easily drip off a horizontal surface, such as for example, a ceiling.

There is a need for a polyurethane thickener that possesses good thickening efficiency and desirable sag resistance.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a mixture of polyurethanes comprising a first polyurethane with at least two end groups, where each end group is a polyether end group obtained by reacting a terminal NCO group of the polyurethane with a polyether monoalcohol having one terminal OH group; a second polyurethane with at least two end groups, where each end group is a non-functional end group obtained by reacting a terminal NCO group of the polyurethane and a reactant having only one group containing a NCO reactive hydrogen, the reactant being selected from monofunctional C₁-C₄₀ alkyl alcohols, monofunctional phenolics, monofunctional aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic amines, monofunctional C₈-C₂₂ alkyl carboxylic acids, monofunctional aromatic acids, monofunctional alkylaromatic acids, monofunctional alicyclic acids, monofunctional alkoxypropyl acids and monofunctional C₁-C₃₀ mercaptans; and a third polyurethane with at least two end groups, where one end group is the above polyether end group and one other end group is the above non-functional end group.

A second aspect of the invention is an aqueous composition comprising from 0.005 to 20 percent by weight of this polyurethane mixture.

A third aspect of the present invention is directed to a method of improving the sag resistance and/or viscosity of an aqueous composition by adding this polyurethane mixture to an aqueous composition at a concentration of from 0.005 to 20 percent by weight of the aqueous composition.

A fourth aspect of the invention is directed to the use of this polyurethane mixture in a paint; a hair conditioner or shampoo; an astringent; a depilatory; a sunscreen; facial make-up; hand cream or lotion; or a cleaner.

The polyurethane mixture of this invention is particularly advantageous for use in latex coating compositions, especially in paints. While it is useful for increasing the viscosity of an aqueous composition, the most important advantage is the sag resistance it imparts. Aqueous compositions thickened with the polyurethane mixture of this invention are structured and solid-like, characteristic of a gel. The gel structure generated by the polyurethane thickener is desirable because aqueous compositions with gel structure resist the tendency to sag. In addition, aqueous compositions with gel structure do not drip easily off a paint brush or paint roller. A further advantage of the improved polyurethane mixture

of the present invention is that it is resistant to microbial attack and incorporates easily in aqueous compositions. In addition, the polyurethane mixture of this invention is also advantageous because it can be used as a cothickener with other thickeners to obtain an aqueous composition which does not sag and has a desirable balance of other properties, such as for example, flow and leveling.

This invention is directed to a mixture of polyurethanes. Each of the polyurethanes in the mixture may be present in an amount ranging from 5 to 90 mole percent. More preferably, the first polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 8.3 to 75 mole percent, the second polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 8.3 to 75 mole percent, and the third polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 16.7 to 83.4 mole percent. Even more preferably, the first polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 8.3 to 25 mole percent, the second polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 25 to 75 mole percent, and the third polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 16.7 to 50 mole percent. Most preferably, the first polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 12.5 to 25 mole percent, the second polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 25 to 62.5 mole percent, and the third polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 25 to 50 mole percent.

Generally, the polyurethanes in the mixture are characterized by their end groups. One possible end group is the reaction product of a terminal isocyanate and a polyether alcohol, hereinafter referred to as the "polyether end group." Another possible end group is the reaction product of a terminal isocyanate and a reactant having only one group containing an isocyanate reactive hydrogen, so that this end group cannot further polymerize or participate in any further reactions once this reaction has occurred, hereinafter referred to as the "non-functional end group." The end groups on the polyurethane may be in any sequence and do not exclude the possibility that the polyurethane contains additional end groups such as being branched or star-shaped. For any end group that is the reaction product of a polyether alcohol and a terminal isocyanate, the polyether alcohol must have only one terminal hydroxyl moiety which can react with the terminal isocyanate so that the polyether end group cannot further polymerize or react after this reaction has occurred.

The polyether monoalcohol includes alkyl and aryl polyether alcohols. These alcohols may be straight or branched (C_1 - C_{22}) alkanol/ethylene oxide and alkyl phenol/ethylene oxide adducts, such as for example, methanol, ethanol, propanol, lauryl alcohol, t-octylphenol or nonylphenol ethylene oxide adducts containing 1-250 ethylene oxide groups. In addition, the polyether alcohol may also include alkanol/propylene oxide and alkyl phenol/propylene oxide adducts containing 1-250 propylene oxide groups. More preferred polyether alcohols in this invention include polyethylene glycol methyl ether and polypropylene glycol methyl ether. Most preferred polyether alcohols are polyethylene glycol methyl ethers with 15-50 ethylene oxide groups.

The non-functional end group is derived from a reactant which is an alcohol, phenolic, amine, acid or mercaptan. The reactant is monofunctional in that it only has one group containing a hydrogen atom that can react with the terminal isocyanate group, i.e. the reactant is a monofunctional alcohol, monofunctional phenolic, monofunctional amine, monofunctional acid, or monofunctional mercaptan.

Suitable monofunctional (C_1 - C_{40}) alcohols may include methanol, ethanol, octanol, dodecanol, octadecanol, tetradecanol, hexadecanol, and cyclohexanol. More preferred alcohols include the C_{14} - C_{20} alkyl alcohols, and a most preferred alcohol is 1-octadecanol. Suitable phenolics include phenol, cresol, octylphenol, nonyl and dodecylphenol.

The monofunctional amine includes both primary and secondary aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic amines such as the straight or branched chain alkyl amines, or mixtures thereof, containing about 1-20 carbon atoms in the alkyl group. Suitable amines include for example, n- and t-octyl amine, n-dodecyl amines, C_{12} - C_{14} or C_{18} - C_{20} n-alkyl and t-alkyl amine mixtures, and secondary amines such as N,N-dibenzyl amine, N,N-dicyclohexyl amine and N,N-dibenzyl amine.

The monofunctional acids are selected from: C_8 - C_{22} alkyl carboxylic acids, such as octanoic acid, decanoic acid, tetradecanoic acid, hexadecanoic acid, octadecanoic acid (stearic acid), eicosanoic acid and docosanoic acid; naturally occurring mixtures of acids, such as cocoa acids, tallow acids, rapeseed acids and the hydrogenated forms of these acids; aromatic acids, such as benzoic acid and naphthoic acids; alkyl substituted aromatic acids, such as octylbenzoic acid and dodecylbenzoic acid; alicyclic acids, such as cyclopentane carboxylic acid, cyclohexanecarboxylic acid and cyclooctanecarboxylic acid; and alkoxypropyl acids derived from the Michael addition of alcohols of acrylic acid, such as 3-octyloxypropanoic acid, 3-dodecyloxypropanoic acid and 3-octadecyloxypropanoic acid.

Suitable monofunctional C_1 - C_{30} mercaptans include octyl mercaptan, decylmercaptan, dodecylmercaptan, tetradecylmercaptan, hexadecylmercaptan and octadecylmercaptan.

The processes for the preparation of the polyurethane mixtures in this invention are well known and are illustrated in U.S. Pat. No. 4,079,028. The polyurethanes in the mixture can be prepared individually and then blended. It is preferred to prepare the polyurethane mixture in a one step process whereby all three polyurethanes are prepared simultaneously in the same reactor. The polyurethane mixtures are the reaction products of an organic diisocyanate; polyol, such as, for example, polyethylene glycol, polyether alcohol; and at least one reactant which is an alcohol, phenolic, amine, acid, or mercaptan. The molar ratio of polyol to diisocyanate ranges from 1:1.01 to 1:5, preferably

from 1:1.01 to 1:3. The moles of polyether alcohol and reactant must be at least two times greater than the difference between the moles of diisocyanate and polyol. The molar ratio of polyether alcohol to the reactant is from 10:1 to 1:10, and more preferably from 1:1 to 1:5. The percent of each type of polyurethane in the mixture may be varied by changing the molar ratio of the polyether alcohol and reactant. A convenient reaction temperature is 40°C to 150°C, preferably from 60°C to 130°C.

It is preferable that the weight average molecular weight, M_w , of the polyether alcohol is greater than 500. It is also preferable that the weight average molecular weight, M_w , of the reactant, i.e. the monofunctional alcohol, monofunctional phenolic, monofunctional amine, monofunctional mercaptan and monofunctional acid, is less than 500.

The polyurethane mixture may be incorporated into aqueous compositions in amounts ranging from 0.005% to 20%, preferably from 0.01% to 10% and most preferably from 0.05% to 3.0% by weight of the aqueous composition. The polyurethane mixture may be mixed into the aqueous composition using conventional mixing equipment, for example, high speed dispersers, ball mills, sand mills, pebble mills, paddle mixers, and other such mixing equipment. The polyurethane mixture may be in the form of a dry powder, a premixed aqueous solution or a slurry or a solution in a water compatible solvent. In this regard, a solvent may be selected to prepare the polyurethane mixture so that it may be directly mixed into the aqueous composition. Of course, the composition may normally contain other known ingredients, such as, for example, pigments, surfactants, defoamers, preservatives, and the like, in known combinations and amounts depending on the particular end use.

Typical aqueous compositions which may include the polyurethane mixture of the present invention are paints, coatings, synthetic plaster, cosmetics, personal care items, for example, shampoos, hair conditioners, hand lotions, hand creams, astringents, depilatories, and antiperspirants, adhesives, sealants, inks, drilling fluids, packer fluids, topical pharmaceutical, cleaners, fabric softeners, pesticidal and agricultural compositions, and any other aqueous compositions requiring thickening. Usually these latex coating compositions contain added pigments, fillers and extenders, for example, titanium dioxide, barium sulfate, calcium carbonate, clays, mica, talc and silica.

Aqueous compositions thickened with the polyurethane mixture of this invention resist the tendency to sag. The sag resistance of a paint is measured as follows.

Measurement of Sag Resistance

The sag resistance is measured using an anti-sag bar (supplied by the Leneta Company). The bar has notches of varying thickness, from 4 to 24 mils (one thousandth of an inch) (0.1 to 0.61 mm). The clearances on the bar in mils are identified by a number next to each notch on the bar. A sealed chart is marked with a water-soluble pen line drawn perpendicular to the direction of the intended path of the anti-sag bar. The anti-sag bar is placed at the top end of the sealed chart. Each paint is thoroughly mixed by hand. Each paint is drawn up through a syringe without a needle tip. The needle tip is then affixed to the end of the syringe. The paint is applied by shooting the paint through the needle to the chart in front of the anti-sag bar. The anti-sag bar is then used to cast a film of the paint. The chart is then suspended vertically such that paint stripes of varying thickness are vertical, and the water-soluble marker line is horizontal. As the wet paint dries, the water-soluble marker ink mixes with the paint and moves down the chart as the paint sags. When the paint dries, the sag resistance is determined as the greatest notch clearance on the bar which sagged the ink mark less 0.5 mm. A sag rating of 4 mils (0.1 mm) indicates very poor sag resistance and a rating of 24 mils (0.61 mm) or greater indicates excellent sag resistance.

Aqueous compositions thickened with the polyurethane mixture of this invention are structured and have gel strength. The gel strength of a paint is measured as follows.

Measurement of Gel Strength

Gel strength is measured with an instrument called an ICI gel strength tester, or ICI rotothinner. The paint is left undisturbed in the can for 3 days. The ICI gel strength tester is a paddle viscometer. The paddle is lowered into the paint, and the paint is turned at a constant speed. The force (grams /centimeter) needed to turn the paint against the paddle is measured. The stress rises to a high and then ebbs back to a lower level as the thixotropic structure breaks down. By "thixotropic", we mean flow behavior in which the viscosity is reduced by agitation or stirring.

EXAMPLE 1

Preparation of polyurethane mixture

To a one liter flask was added 195 grams of a polyethylene glycol of approximate molecular weight 8,000, 325 grams of toluene, and 0.2 grams of dibutyltin dilaurate. The mixture was azeotropically dried by refluxing the mixture and collecting any water in a Dean-Stark trap, cooled to 80°C, and 8.2 grams of methylene bis(4-cyclohexyl isocyanate)

was added. After 2.5 hours, a mixture of 4.7 grams of 1-octadecanol and 11.5 grams of a polyethylene glycol methyl ether of approximate molecular weight 2,000 was added. The mixture was held at 80°C for 4 hours and then cooled. The solid product was isolated by evaporation of the toluene.

5 EXAMPLE 2

The procedure of Example 1 was repeated except that after 2.5 hours, a mixture of 3.1 grams of 1-octadecanol and 23.0 grams of the polyethylene glycol methyl ether was added.

10 EXAMPLE 3

To a one liter flask was added 240 grams of a polyethylene glycol of approximate molecular weight 8,000, 400 grams of toluene, and 0.2 grams of dibutyltin dilaurate. The mixture was azeotropically dried by refluxing the mixture and collecting any water in a Dean-Stark trap, cooled to 80°C, and 10.1 grams of methylene bis(4-cyclohexyl isocyanate) was added. After 3 hours, a mixture of 3.8 grams of 1-octadecanol and 33.0 grams of a 50 weight percent solution of a polypropylene glycol methyl ether of approximate molecular weight 1,180 in toluene was added. The mixture was then held at 80°C for 3 hours. The mixture was then heated to 100°C for 9 hours and then cooled. The solid product was isolated by evaporation of the toluene.

20 EXAMPLE 4

The procedure of Example 1 was repeated except that after 3 hours (instead of after 2.5 hours), a mixture of 2.7 grams of 1-decanol and 11.4 grams of the polyethylene glycol methyl ether was added. The mixture was held at 80°C for 3 hours and then cooled. The solid product was isolated by evaporation of the toluene.

25 EXAMPLE 5

The procedure of Example 4 was repeated except that after 3 hours, a mixture of 3.2 grams of 1-dodecanol and 11.4 grams of polyethylene glycol methyl ether was added.

30 EXAMPLE 6

The procedure of Example 4 was repeated except that after 3 hours, a mixture of 3.7 grams of 1-tetradecanol and 11.4 grams of polyethylene glycol methyl ether was added.

35 EXAMPLE 7

The procedure of Example 4 was repeated except that after 3 hours, a mixture of 4.2 grams of 1-hexadecanol and 11.4 grams of polyethylene glycol methyl ether was added.

40 EXAMPLE 8

To a one liter flask was added 192 grams of a polyethylene glycol of molecular weight 8,000, 325 grams of toluene, and 0.2 grams of dibutyltin dilaurate. The mixture was azeotropically dried by refluxing the mixture and collecting any water in a Dean-Stark trap, cooled to 80°C, and 8.2 grams of methylene bis(4-cyclohexyl isocyanate) was added. After 2.5 hours, a mixture of 1.0 gram of 1-octadecanol and 37.4 grams of a polyethylene glycol methyl ether of approximate molecular weight 2,000 was added. The mixture was held at 80°C for 4 hours and then cooled. The solid product was isolated by evaporation of the toluene.

50 EXAMPLE 9

The procedure of Example 8 was repeated except that after 2.5 hours, a mixture of 1.5 grams of 1-octadecanol and 33.6 grams of the polyethylene glycol methyl ether was added.

55 EXAMPLE 10

The procedure of Example 8 was repeated except that after 2.5 hours, a mixture of 4.5 grams of 1-octadecanol and 11.2 grams of the polyethylene glycol methyl ether was added.

EXAMPLE 11

The procedure of Example 8 was repeated except that after 2.5 hours, a mixture of 5.1 grams of 1-octadecanol and 7.6 grams of the polyethylene glycol methyl ether was added.

EXAMPLE 12

To a one liter flask was added 197.5 grams of a polyethylene glycol of approximate molecular weight 8,000, 331 grams of toluene, and 0.2 grams of dibutyltin dilaurate. The mixture was azeotropically dried by refluxing the mixture and collecting any water in a Dean-Stark trap, cooled to 80°C, and 7.4 grams of methylene bis(4-cyclohexyl isocyanate) was added. After 2.5 hours, a mixture of 3.4 grams of Unilin 425 (triacontanol) and 15.4 grams of a polyethylene glycol methyl ether of approximate molecular weight 2,000 was added. The mixture was held at 80°C for 4 hours and then cooled. The solid product was isolated by evaporation of the toluene.

EXAMPLE 13**Paint Thickened with the Polyurethane Mixture**

This example demonstrates the use of the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 for thickening a paint. A commercial polyurethane thickener which is not a mixture was also evaluated for comparison (Comparative A). The latex paint formulation used in this example was:

| INGREDIENT | AMOUNT (parts by weight) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Water | 106.7 |
| Hydrophilic acrylic dispersant | 11.5 |
| Propylene glycol | 25.0 |
| Defoamer | 2.0 |
| Titanium Dioxide | 250.0 |
| Clay | 100.0 |
| Clay | 5.0 |
| Acrylic Binder (60.5% solids) | 350.1 |
| Coalescent | 10.6 |
| Defoamer | 4.0 |
| Thickener/Water | 234.7 |

Each paint composition was thickened using a sufficient amount of thickener (on a dry weight basis) to give a low shear viscosity (as measured with a Krebs-modified Stormer Viscosity) of about 95 Krebs units (KU) after 2 days equilibration at room temperature. The sag resistance and ICI gel strength of the paints were measured and the results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

| Thickener | Thickener-Dry Lbs/100 gal. (kg/l) | KU | Sag Resistance-mils (mm) | ICI Gel Strength (g/cm) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|----|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Example 1 | 4.1 (0.49) | 96 | 24 (0.61) | 47 |
| Comparative A | 2.7 (0.32) | 95 | 8 (0.2) | 0 |

The results in Table 1 show that Example 1 generated greater sag resistance than Comparative A. In addition, Example 1 generated significant gel strength whereas Comparative A did not generate any gel strength.

EXAMPLE 14**Polyurethane as a Cothickener**

The polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was blended with a commercial polyurethane thickener at dry weight ratios of 1/1, 1/3, and 1/6 (Example 1/Commercial Polyurethane). These thickeners were used to thicken a gloss paint formulation.

| INGREDIENT | AMOUNT (parts by weight) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Methyl Carbitol | 44.8 |
| Water | 10.0 |
| Hydrophilic Acrylic Dispersant (25%) | 7.8 |
| Surfactant | 1.8 |
| Defoamer | 2.0 |
| Titanium Dioxide | 195.0 |
| Acrylic Binder (42.5% solids) | 540.7 |
| Water | 107.9 |
| Coalescent | 34.6 |
| Defoamer | 2.0 |
| Thickener/Water | 50.2 |

Each paint composition was thickened using a sufficient amount of thickener (on a dry weight basis) to give an equilibrated low shear viscosity (as measured with a Krebs-modified Stormer Viscosity) of about 97 Krebs units (KU) after 2 days equilibration. The paints were evaluated for sag resistance and ICI gel strength as previously described. Leveling was determined using ASTM Standard Test Method for Leveling of Paints by Draw-Down Method (ASTM D-4062-88). The leveling rating scale was 1-10, with 10 indicating the best leveling and 1 indicating the worst leveling.

Gloss was measured on dried films of paint cast with a three mil (0.07 mm) Byrd applicator. The paint film was then allowed to dry for seven days at 25°C (77°F)/50% R.H. Gloss was measured with a Glossgard II gloss meter. Values are reported for angles of incidence 20° and 60° from normal. The data are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

| Thickener* | Thickener Dry Lbs./100 gal (kg/l) | KU | Leveling | Sag Resistance- mils (mm) | ICI gel Strength (g/ cm) | Gloss 20°/ 60° |
|------------|--------------------------------------|----|----------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1/1 Ratio | 1.4 (0.17) | 95 | 5 | >24 (>0.61) | 60 | 43/ 81 |
| 1/3 Ratio | 2.0 (0.24) | 98 | 9- | >24 (>0.61) | 30 | 42/ 81 |
| 1/6 Ratio | 2.4 (0.29) | 99 | 9+ | 19 (0.48) | 10 | 43/ 80 |

*Blends: Example 1 and Commercial Polyurethane (Dry Weight Ratio)

Table 2 shows that Example 1 polyurethane mixture can be blended with another commercial polyurethane thickener to obtain a desirable balance of leveling, sag resistance, and gloss.

EXAMPLE 15

Effect of Molar Ratio of Monofunctional Alcohol /Polyether Alcohol

Five polyurethane mixtures were made with a different molar ratio of 1-octadecanol (reactant group) and polyethylene glycol methyl ether (polyether alcohol). These thickeners were formulated into the paint formulation from Example 13. Each paint composition was thickened using a sufficient amount of thickener (on a dry weight basis) to give an equilibrated KU viscosity of about 94 KU after 2 days equilibration. Sag resistance of these paints was measured as described in the specification.

Table 3

| Polyurethane Example Number | 1-Octadecanol/ Polyethylene Glycol Methyl Ether Molar Ratio | Thickener Dry Lbs/100 gals (kg/l) | KU | Sag Resistance-mils (mm) |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 11 | 5/1 | 3.5 (0.42) | 94 | > 24 (>0.61) |
| 10 | 3/1 | 4.0 (0.48) | 94 | > 24 (>0.61) |
| 2 | 1/1 | 6.9 (0.83) | 94 | > 24 (>0.61) |
| 7 | 1/3 | 14.1 (1.69) | 96 | 16 (0.41) |

Table 3 (continued)

| Polyurethane Example Number | 1-Octadecanol/ Polyethylene Glycol Methyl Ether Molar Ratio | Thickener Dry Lbs/100 gals (kg/l) | KU | Sag Resistance-mils (mm) |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 8 | 1/5 | 22.7 (2.72) | 91 | 11 (0.28) |

The table shows that both thickener efficiency and sag resistance balance changed with the 1-octadecanol/polyethylene glycol methyl ether ratio. Thickener efficiency is defined as the amount of thickener to reach the same viscosity (KU). The greater the amount of thickener required to reach a specified viscosity the lower was the thickening efficiency.

EXAMPLE 16**Effect of chain length of monofunctional alcohol (reactant)**

A series of polyurethane mixtures were made with different length monofunctional alkyl alcohols at a 3/1 molar ratio of alcohol to polyethylene glycol methyl ether. These samples were formulated into the paint formulation from Example 13. Each paint composition was thickened using a sufficient amount of thickener (on a dry weight basis) to give an equilibrated KU viscosity of about 94 KU after 2 days equilibration. The paints were evaluated for sag resistance as described in the specification. The results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4

| Example | Alkyl (Cx) Alcohol Length | Thickener Dry Lbs./100 gal. (kg/l) | KU | Sag resistance-mils (mm) |
|---------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 4 | C10 | 4.0 (0.48) | 94 | 7 (0.18) |
| 5 | C12 | 3.0 (0.36) | 94 | 10 (0.25) |
| 6 | C14 | 2.9 (0.35) | 93 | 12 (0.3) |
| 7 | C16 | 3.5 (0.42) | 95 | 20 (0.51) |
| 10 | C18 | 4.0 (0.48) | 94 | > 24 (>0.61) |

Table 4 shows that increasing the length of the monofunctional alkyl alcohol increased sag resistance. The polyurethane mixture made with the C₁₈ alcohol (1-octadecanol) had the greatest sag resistance.

EXAMPLE 17**Polyether alcohols**

Polyurethane mixtures were made with a 1/1 molar ratio of 1-octadecanol to each of two different polyether alcohols. The polyether alcohols were a polyethylene glycol methyl ether of approximate molecular weight 2,000 and a polypropylene glycol methyl ether of approximate molecular weight 1000. These samples were used to thicken the paint of the formulation given in Example 13. Each paint composition was thickened using a sufficient amount of thickener (on a dry weight basis) to give an equilibrated KU viscosity of about 95 KU after 2 days equilibration. Sag resistance and ICI gel strength were measured as described in the specification. The results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5

| Example | Polyether Alcohol | Thickener Dry Lbs/ 100 gal. (kg/l) | KU | Sag Resistance-mils (mm) | ICI Gel Strength (g/ cm) |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 | Polyethylene Glycol Methyl Ether | 6.1 (0.73) | 95 | > 24 (>0.61) | 32 |
| 3 | Polypropylene Glycol Methyl Ether | 4.0 (0.48) | 95 | > 24 (>0.61) | 16 |

Table 5 shows that both polyethylene glycol methyl ether and polypropylene glycol methyl ether are useful for the polyether alcohol.

EXAMPLE 18Use of Polyurethane in Cosmetic and Personal Care Applications

a) Hair Conditioners

A quaternary ammonium salt, such as, for example, Carsoquat 868P (dicetyldimethyl ammonium chloride, supplied by Lonza) is the active ingredient in hair conditioners. Hair conditioners are thickened to provide a desirable viscosity upon application. The thickener must be compatible with the quaternary ammonium salt.

A solution of 2% by weight solids of Carsoquat 868P (68% by weight solids) and 1% by weight solids of the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was made by adding 5.88 grams of Carsoquat 868 and 10 grams of the polyurethane of Example 1 (20% by weight solids) to 184.12 grams of water. The solution was stirred at room temperature. A solution of 1% by weight solids of the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was made by adding 10 grams of the polyurethane to 190 grams of water and stirring the solution until blended. The viscosities of these solutions were measured using a Brookfield LVT viscometer at 12 rpm. Table 6 shows the viscosities of these solutions.

Table 6

| Sample (% By Weight Solids) | Viscosity, cps (Pa s)[Spindle Number] |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2% Carsoquat 868P + 1% Example 1 | 16000 (16) [2] |
| 1% Example 1 | 3820 (3.82) [3] |

Table 6 shows that Example 1 was useful for thickening a 2% by weight solution of Carsoquat 868P. Example 1 was compatible with Carsoquat 868P in solution and did not separate on standing.

b) Dandruff Shampoos, Astringents, and Sunscreens containing Zinc Compounds

Dandruff shampoos may contain zinc pyrithione as the active ingredient. Astringents may contain zinc phenol as the active ingredient. Sunscreens may contain zinc oxide as the active ingredient. Shampoos, astringents, and sunscreens containing zinc compounds are thickened so the zinc does not separate and settle out of solution and to provide desired end-use viscosity.

A solution of 0.5% zinc and 2% by weight solids of the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was made by adding 2.08 grams of zinc chloride and 20 grams of Example 1 (20% by weight solids) to 177.92 grams of water. The solution was stirred at room temperature. A solution of 0.5% by weight of zinc and 2% by weight solids of Comparative A (25% by weight solids) was made by adding 2.08 grams of zinc chloride and 16 grams of Comparative A to 181.92 grams of water and stirring the solution until blended. Comparative A is not a polyurethane mixture. The viscosities of these solutions were measured immediately and after 2 weeks at room temperature using a Brookfield LVT viscometer Table 7 shows the viscosities of these solutions.

Table 7

| Polyurethane and Zinc in Water* | Fresh Solution Viscosity, cps (Pa s) [spindle number] | 2 Weeks at Room Temperature Viscosity, cps (Pa s) [spindle number] |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Example 1 | 49,900 (49.9) [4] | > 50000 (>50) [4] |
| Comparative A | 115 (0.115) [2] | Separated |

*0.5% Zinc and 2% By Weight Solids Polyurethane in Water Brookfield Viscosity Measured at 12 RPM

Table 7 shows that the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was significantly better than Comparative A for thickening a 0.5% zinc solution in water.

c) Depilatories Containing Calcium Salts

Almost all depilatories use the calcium salt of thioglycolic acid as the active ingredient. The depilatories are thickened so the calcium salt does not settle out and to provide desired end-use viscosity.

A solution of 0.5% calcium and 2% by weight solids of the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was made by adding 2.76 grams of calcium chloride and 20 grams of Example 1 (20% by weight solids) to 177.24 grams of water. The solution was stirred at room temperature. A solution of 0.5% by weight of calcium and 2% by weight solids of Compar-

ative A (25% by weight solids) was made by adding 2.76 grams of calcium chloride and 16 grams of Comparative A to 181.24 grams of water and stirring the solution until blended. Comparative A is not a polyurethane mixture. The viscosities of these solutions were measured immediately at room temperature using a Brookfield LVT viscometer. Table 8 shows the viscosities of these solutions.

Table 8

| Polyurethane and Calcium in Water* | Viscosity, cps (Pa s) [Spindle Number] |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Example 1 | 49,900 (49.9) [4] |
| Comparative A | 316 (0.316) [2] |

*0.5% Calcium and 2% By Weight Solids Polyurethane in Water Brookfield Viscosity Measured at 12 RPM

Table 8 shows that the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was significantly better than Comparative A for thickening a 0.5% calcium solution in water.

d) Shampoos Containing Sodium Salts

Salt tolerance is important for shampoos containing surfactants such as betaines. Salt tolerance is also important for many active ingredients in shampoos such as protein containing formulations. Shampoos are thickened to provide a desired end-use viscosity.

A solution of 1.0 % by weight of sodium chloride and 2% by weight solids of the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was made by adding 1.0 gram of sodium chloride and 10 grams of Example 1 (20% by weight solids) to 89 grams of water. The solution was stirred at room temperature. A solution of 1.0 % by weight of sodium chloride and 2% by weight solids of Comparative A (25% by weight solids) was made by adding 1.0 gram of sodium chloride and 8 grams of Comparative A to 91 grams of water and stirring the solution until blended. Comparative A is not a polyurethane mixture. A solution of 1.0 % by weight of sodium chloride and 2% by weight solids of Comparative B (20% by weight solids) was made by adding 1.0 gram of sodium chloride and 10 grams of Comparative B to 89 grams of water and stirring the solution until blended. Comparative B is a commercial polyurethane thickener which is not a polyurethane mixture. The viscosities of these solutions were measured initially and after 4 weeks at 40°C using a Brookfield LVT viscometer. Table 9 shows the viscosities of these solutions.

Table 9

| Polyurethane and Salt in Water* | Fresh Solution Viscosity, cps (Pa s) [Spindle number] | 4 Weeks at 40°C Viscosity, cps (Pa s) [Spindle number] |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Example 1 | 48,500 (48.5) [5] | 45,000 (45) [5] |
| Comparative A | 700 (0.7) [3] | 490 (0.49) [3] |
| Comparative B | 10 (0.01) [2] | Not Measured |

*1.0 % Sodium Chloride and 2% By Weight Solids Polyurethane Brookfield Viscosity Measured at 12 RPM

Table 9 shows that the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was significantly better than Comparative A and Comparative B for thickening a 1.0% sodium chloride solution in water.

e) Facial Make-Up and Sunscreen containing pigments

Facial make-up such as, for example, eye shadow and face powder, contain high solids slurries of pigments, such as, for example, Kaolin clay and calcium carbonate. Sunscreens contain titanium dioxide and other micro-sized pigments. Facial make-up and sunscreens must be thickened in order to have the desirable consistency when applied to the skin.

A solution of 30% by weight of Kaolin clay and 1% by weight solids of the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was made by adding 30 gram of Kaolin clay and 5 grams of Example 1 to 65 grams of water and stirring. A solution of 30% by weight of Kaolin clay and 1% by weight solids of Comparative A (25% by weight solids) was made by adding 30 grams of Kaolin clay and 4 grams of Comparative A to 66 grams of water and stirring the solution until blended. Comparative A is not a polyurethane mixture. A solution of 30% by weight of calcium carbonate and 1% by weight solids of Example 1 was made by adding 30 grams of calcium carbonate and 5 grams of Example 1 to 65 grams of water and stirring the solution until blended. A solution of 30% by weight of calcium carbonate and 1% by weight solids of Example A was made by adding 30 grams of calcium carbonate and 4 grams of Comparative A to 66 grams of water and stirring the solution until blended. The viscosities of these solutions were measured using a Brookfield LVT vis-

cometer. Table 10 shows the viscosities of these solutions.

Table 10

| Brookfield Viscosity cps (Pa s) 12 RPM [Spindle Number] | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Solution* | 30% Kaolin Clay | 30% Calcium Carbonate |
| Example 1 | 100,000 (100) [5] | 60,000 (60) [5] |
| Comparative A | 14,000 (14) [4] | 3,400 (3.4) [4] |

*30% By weight pigment and 1.0% By Weight Solids Polyurethane

Table 10 shows that the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was superior to Comparative A for thickening a 30% Kaolin Clay solution and a 30% Calcium Carbonate solution.

f) Hand Creams and Hand Lotions Containing Mineral Oil

Hand cream and lotion formulations containing mineral oil must be thickened to provide the desired consistency upon application. Mineral oil and water are immiscible and will separate on standing.

A solution of 10% by weight mineral oil and 2% by weight of the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was made by adding 10 grams of mineral oil and 10 grams of Example 1 to 80 grams of water and stirring the solution until blended. A solution of 10% by weight mineral oil and 2% by weight of Comparative A was made by adding 10 grams of mineral oil and 8 grams of Comparative A to 88 grams of water and stirring the solution until blended. Comparative A is not a polyurethane mixture. The viscosities of these solutions were measured at room temperature using a Brookfield LVT viscometer. The results are shown in Table 11.

Table 11

| Polyurethane Solution* | Brookfield Viscosity cps (Pa s) 12 RPM[(Spindle number)] |
|------------------------|--|
| Example 1 | > 100,000 (>100) [5] |
| Comparative A | Separated |

*10% Mineral Oil and 2% By Weight Solids Polyurethane in Water

Table 11 shows that the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was useful for thickening a 10% mineral oil solution and avoiding separation of the mineral oil solution.

EXAMPLE 19

Use of Polyurethane Mixture In Cleaners

Several cleaners contain acids as the active ingredients, such as, for example, metal cleaners, de-scalants, toilet bowl cleaners, household cleaners, automatic dishwash rinse additives, transportation cleaners, metal polishes, dairy cleaners, liquid abrasive cleaners, and the like. The acids must be compatible with the thickeners. These cleaning formulations must be thickened to obtain a desired end use viscosity.

A solution of 5% by weight phosphoric acid and 2% by weight solids of the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was made by adding 5.88 grams of 85% phosphoric acid and 10 grams of Example 1 to 84.12 grams of water. A solution of 5% by weight sulfuric acid and 2% by weight solids of the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was made by adding 5.21 grams of 96% sulfuric acid and 10 grams of Example 1 to 84.79 grams of water. A solution of 10% by weight citric acid and 2% by weight solids of the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was made by adding 10 grams of citric acid and 10 grams of Example 1 to 80 grams of water. The viscosities of these solutions were measured initially and after 2 weeks at room temperature using a Brookfield LVT viscometer. The results are shown in Table 12.

Table 12

| Brookfield Viscosity cps (Pa s) 12 RPM [Spindle number] | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Acid* | Initial Viscosity, cps (Pa s) | Viscosity after 2 Weeks at Room Temperature, cps (Pa s) |
| 5% Phosphoric | > 100,000 (>100) [5] | > 100,000 (>100) [5] |
| 5% Sulfuric | 37,000 (37) [4] | 31,000 (31) [4] |

*Acid Solutions and 2% By Weight Solids Polyurethane

Table 12 (continued)

| Brookfield Viscosity cps (Pa s) 12 RPM [Spindle number] | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Acid* | Initial Viscosity, cps (Pa s) | Viscosity after 2 Weeks at Room Temperature, cps (Pa s) |
| 10% Citric Acid | 12,250 (12.25) [4] | 7,500 (7.5) [4] |

*Acid Solutions and 2% By Weight Solids Polyurethane

Table 12 shows that the polyurethane mixture of Example 1 was useful for thickening acid solutions.

"Unilin" and "Carsoquat" are trademarks which may be registered in one or more of the designated countries.

Claims

1. A mixture of polyurethanes comprising a first polyurethane with at least two end groups, where each end group is a polyether end group obtained by reacting a terminal NCO group of the polyurethane with a polyether monoalcohol having one terminal OH group; a second polyurethane with at least two end groups, where each end group is a non-functional end group obtained by reacting a terminal NCO group of the polyurethane and a reactant having only one group containing a NCO reactive hydrogen, the reactant being selected from monofunctional C₁-C₄₀ alkyl alcohols, monofunctional phenolics, monofunctional aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic amines, monofunctional C₈-C₂₂ alkyl carboxylic acids, monofunctional aromatic acids, monofunctional alkylaromatic acids, monofunctional alicyclic acids, monofunctional alkoxypropylacids and monofunctional C₁-C₃₀ mercaptans; and a third polyurethane with at least two end groups, where one end group is the above polyether end group and one other end group is the above non-functional end group.
2. The polyurethane mixture of claim 1 where the polyether is an alkyl or aryl polyether alcohol, preferably polyethylene glycol methyl ether or polypropylene glycol methyl ether.
3. The polyurethane mixture of claims 1 or 2, where the non-functional group is derived from 1-octadecanol.
4. The polyurethane mixture of claims 1, 2 or 3, where each polyurethane in the mixture is present in an amount ranging from 5 to 90 mole percent.
5. The polyurethane mixture of claims 1, 2, 3 or 4, where the first polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 8.3 to 25 mole percent, preferably 12.5 to 25 mole percent, the second polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 25 to 75 mole percent, preferably 25 to 62.5 mole percent, and the third polyurethane is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 16.7 to 50 mole percent, preferably 25 to 50 mole percent.
6. An aqueous composition comprising from 0.005 to 20 percent by weight of the polyurethane mixture of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.
7. A method of improving the sag resistance and/or viscosity of an aqueous composition by adding the polyurethane mixture of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 to an aqueous composition at a concentration of from 0.005 to 20 percent by weight of the aqueous composition.
8. Use of the mixture claimed in claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, in a paint; a hair conditioner or shampoo; an astringent; a depilatory; a sunscreen; facial make-up; hand cream or lotion or a cleaner.

Patentansprüche

1. Gemisch von Polyurethanen, umfassend ein erstes Polyurethan mit mindestens zwei Endgruppen, wobei jede Endgruppe eine Polyether-Endgruppe ist, die durch Reaktion einer terminalen NCO-Gruppe des Polyurethans mit einem Polyethermonoalkohol, der eine terminale OH-Gruppe hat, erhalten wurde; ein zweites Polyurethan mit mindestens zwei Endgruppen, wobei jede Endgruppe eine nicht-funktionale Endgruppe ist, die durch Reaktion einer terminalen NCO-Gruppe des Polyurethans mit einem Reaktanten mit nur einer Gruppe, die ein NCO-reaktives Wasserstoffatom enthält, erhalten wurde, wobei der Reaktant ausgewählt ist aus monofunktionalen C₁-C₄₀

Alkylalkoholen, monofunktionalen Phenolen, monofunktionalen aliphatischen, cycloaliphatischen oder aromatischen Aminen, monofunktionalen C₈-C₂₂ Alkylcarbonsäuren, monofunktionalen aromatischen Säuren, monofunktionalen alkylaromatischen Säuren, monofunktionalen alicyclischen Säuren, monofunktionalen Alkoxypropylsäuren und monofunktionalen C₁-C₃₀ Mercaptanen; und ein drittes Polyurethan mit mindestens zwei Endgruppen, wobei die eine Endgruppe die vorgenannte Polyether-Endgruppe ist und eine andere Endgruppe die vorgenannte nicht-funktionale Endgruppe ist.

2. Polyurethan-Gemisch nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Polyether ein Alkyl-oder Aryl-Polyetheralkohol ist, bevorzugt Polyethylenglykoldimethylether oder Polypropylenglykoldimethylether.

3. Polyurethan-Gemisch nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei die nicht-funktionale Gruppe von 1-Octadecanol abgeleitet ist.

4. Polyurethan-Gemisch nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3, wobei jedes Polyurethan in einem Bereich von 5 bis 90 Molprozent anteilig vorliegt.

5. Polyurethan-Gemisch nach Anspruch 1, 2, 3 oder 4, wobei das erste Polyurethan in dem Gemisch in einem Bereich von 8,3 bis 25 Molprozent, vorzugsweise von 12,5 bis 25 Molprozent, anteilig vorliegt, das zweite Polyurethan in dem Gemisch in einem Bereich von 25 bis 75 Molprozent, vorzugsweise von 25 bis 62,5 Molprozent, anteilig vorliegt und das dritte Polyurethan in dem Gemisch in einem Bereich von 16,7 bis 50 Molprozent, vorzugsweise von 25 bis 50 Molprozent, anteilig vorliegt.

6. Wässrige Zusammensetzung, umfassend von 0,005 bis 20 Gew.-% des Polyurethan-Gemisches nach Anspruch 1, 2, 3, 4 oder 5.

7. Verfahren zur Verbesserung der Durchsackbeständigkeit und/oder Viskosität einer wässrigen Zusammensetzung durch Hinzufügen des Polyurethan-Gemisches nach Anspruch 1, 2, 3, 4 oder 5 zu einer wässrigen Zusammensetzung bei einer Konzentration von 0,005 bis 20 Gew.-% der wässrigen Zusammensetzung.

8. Verwendung des Gemisches nach Anspruch 1, 2, 3, 4 oder 5 in einem Anstrichmittel; einem Frisiermittel oder einem Shampoo; einem Adstringens; einem Enthaarungsmittel; einem Sonnenschutz; Gesichts-Make-up; einer Handcreme oder Lotion oder einem Reiniger.

Revendications

1. Mélange de polyuréthane comprenant un premier polyuréthane ayant au moins deux groupes d'extrémité, où chaque groupe d'extrémité est un groupe d'extrémité polyéther obtenu en faisant réagir un groupement NCO terminal du polyuréthane avec un polyéther monoalcool ayant un groupement OH terminal; un deuxième polyuréthane ayant au moins deux groupes d'extrémité, où chaque groupe d'extrémité est un groupe d'extrémité non fonctionnel obtenu en faisant réagir un groupement NCO terminal du polyuréthane et un réactif n'ayant qu'un groupement contenant un atome d'hydrogène réactif avec NCO, le réactif étant choisi parmi les alcools alkyliques monofonctionnels en C₁ à C₄₀, les substances phénoliques monofonctionnelles, les amines aromatiques, cycloaliphatiques ou aliphatiques monofonctionnelles, les acides alkyl(en C₈ à C₂₂)carboxyliques monofonctionnels, les acides aromatiques monofonctionnels, les acides alkylaromatiques monofonctionnels, les acides alicycliques monofonctionnels, les alkoxypropylacides monofonctionnels et les mercaptans en C₁ à C₃₀ monofonctionnels; et un troisième polyuréthane avec au moins deux groupes d'extrémité, où un groupe d'extrémité est le groupe d'extrémité polyéther ci-dessus et un autre groupe d'extrémité est le groupe d'extrémité non fonctionnel ci-dessus.

2. Mélange de polyuréthanes selon la revendication 1, où le polyéther est un polyéther d'alcool alkylique ou arylique, de préférence l'éther méthylique de polyéthylèneglycol ou l'éther méthylique de polypropylèneglycol.

3. Mélange de polyuréthanes selon la revendication 1 ou 2, où le groupe non fonctionnel est dérivé du 1-octadécanol.

4. Mélange de polyuréthanes selon la revendication 1, 2 ou 3, où chaque polyuréthane dans le mélange est présent à raison de 5 à 90 pour cent en moles.

5. Mélange de polyuréthanes selon la revendication 1, 2, 3 ou 4, où le premier polyuréthane est présent dans le

mélange à raison de 8,3 à 25 pour cent en moles, de préférence de 12,5 à 25 pour cent en moles, le deuxième polyuréthane est présent dans le mélange à raison de 25 à 75 pour cent en moles, de préférence de 25 à 62,5 pour cent en moles, et le troisième polyuréthane est présent dans le mélange à raison de 16,7 à 50 pour cent en moles, de préférence de 25 à 50 pour cent en moles.

5

6. Composition aqueuse comprenant de 0,005 à 20 pour cent en poids du mélange de polyuréthanes selon la revendication 1, 2, 3, 4 ou 5.

10

7. Procédé d'amélioration de la résistance aux coulures et/ou de la viscosité d'une composition aqueuse en ajoutant le mélange de polyuréthanes selon la revendication 1, 2, 3, 4 ou 5 à une composition aqueuse à une concentration comprise entre 0,005 et 20 pour cent en poids de la composition aqueuse.

15

8. Utilisation du mélange selon la revendication 1, 2, 3, 4 ou 5 dans une peinture; un démêlant pour cheveux ou un shampooing; un astringent; une crème dépilatoire; un écran anti-solaire; un maquillage facial; une crème ou une lotion ou un nettoyant pour les mains.

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55